

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: August 13, 2007

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on August 3, 2007

FROM: Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Mary A. Gade
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Response, I-35 Bridge Collapse, Minneapolis, Minnesota

On August 1, 2007, an entire span of the four-lane I-35W Bridge in the City of Minneapolis fell into the Mississippi River during the afternoon rush hour. As many as 50 vehicles may have fallen into the river. The priority at this time continues to be search and recovery of victims to be followed by the National Transportation Safety Board's investigation of the cause of the accident. The U.S. Coast Guard has shut down the Mississippi River in the area and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has lowered the water level in the river to help the recovery operation. On August 2, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) requested assistance from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for environmental monitoring at the bridge site. A Region 5 Superfund Technical Assistance Response Team (START) contractor has prepared an air monitoring and sampling plan with input from the U.S. EPA Emergency Response Team (ERT), U.S. EPA Region 5 Air and Radiation Division, On-Scene Coordinator Sonia Vega, and MPCA. U.S. EPA's START contractor will be assisting the State with air sampling for asbestos, silica dust from concrete, and volatile organic

compounds from fuel which may be present in the air from the debris.

Contact: Sonia Vega (651-296-7361)

RMP Inspection Conducted, Lambent Technologies Corporation, Gurnee, Illinois

On July 25, 2006, Silvia Palomo from the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section (CEPPS) conducted an inspection at Lambent Technologies Corporation in Gurnee, Illinois. The purpose of the inspection was to review the Risk Management Program that the facility has in place for the use and storage of ethylene oxide. The facility manufactures surfactants, including detergents, emulsifiers, wetting agents, and esters used as raw materials in cosmetics, foods, industrial lubricants, and agricultural products.

Contact: Silvia Palomo (312-353-2172)

RMP Inspection Conducted, Tanner Industries, Inc., Inkster, Michigan

On July 25, 2007, Monika Chrzaszcz from the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section (CEPPS) conducted an inspection at the Tanner Industries, Inc., facility in Inkster, Michigan. The purpose of the inspection was to review the Risk Management Program (RMP) that the facility has in place for the storage and handling of regulated substances under the RMP regulation. The facility is a distributor of ammonia and aqueous ammonia.

Contact: Monika Chrzaszcz (312-886-0181)

RMP Inspection Conducted, Norquick Distributing Company, Canton, Michigan

On July 26, 2007, Monika Chrzaszcz from the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section (CEPPS) conducted an inspection at the Norquick Distributing Company in Canton, Michigan. The purpose of the inspection was to review the Risk Management Program (RMP) that the facility has in place for the storage and handling of regulated substances under the RMP regulation. The facility stores and distributes frozen foods.

Contact: Monika Chrzaszcz (312-886-0181)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES**Full-Scale Boom Deployment Exercise, Trenton, Michigan**

On July 30, 2007, On-Scene Coordinators James Justice and Michelle Jaster participated in a boom deployment exercise coordinated by the Downriver and Western Wayne Emergency Response Teams. Inland Waters (a spill response contractor) provided the equipment and expertise for the exercise, and Buckeye Pipeline provided access from one of their properties to the Trenton Channel of the Detroit River. Over 75 personnel from multiple Fire Departments, Inland Waters, Buckeye Pipeline, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the Wayne County Sheriff's Office (Marine Division), and the U.S. EPA attended. The exercise provided participants with the opportunity to deploy recovery and absorbent boom in both a fast-moving River and a slower moving harbor inlet environment. Boom was deployed and positioned from both the shoreline and the waterways, with all agencies cooperating as teams throughout the day. The exercise emphasized the typical problems and issues encountered with boom deployment in these environments. The local Fox television affiliate and a local newspaper (The News Herald) covered the event.

Contacts: James Justice (734-692-7687)
Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

Exercise, EQ Detroit, Inc., Detroit, Michigan

On July 28, 2007, On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) James Justice and Michelle Jaster participated in a field exercise at the EQ Detroit, Inc., facility, Detroit, Michigan. The exercise simulated an acid release from an onsite mixing pit at the facility. Over 50 personnel participated in the half-day exercise. EQ Detroit's response team and the Detroit Fire Department cooperated on several personnel rescues and associated decontamination activities. The U.S. EPA OSCs participated in notification, Unified Command, and air monitoring discussions and activities. The exercise provided a practical venue for the industry and government partners to observe first-hand the capabilities and expectations of all groups. EQ Detroit will prepare an After Action Report to share with all participants.

Contacts: James Justice (734-692-7687)
Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

Illinois Bioterrorism Summit, Oak Brook, Illinois

From July 17-19, 2007, the Illinois Department of Health held the 2007 Illinois Bioterrorism Summit: Roles, Resources and Responses in the Heartland in Oak Brook, Illinois. There were approximately 760 registrants for this summit and the content covered various emergency response areas. Some topics of the summit sessions and roundtables were: Particles, Picocuries and Polonium: Increasing Radiation Awareness, The Agro-Terrorism Threat to America's Food Supply, State and Federal Response Teams, Responding to a Catastrophic Earthquake in the State of Illinois, and Organizing a Joint Information Center (JIC) and Risk Communication in Emergency Response.

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